



U.S. Army

Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

Public Affairs Office

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## News Release

### Edgewood CB Center Teams Win U.S. Army Research Award

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**Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.** – The Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) announced that it has received the U.S. Army Research and Development Achievement Award for its work in biological threat agent detection. Members of the Biosensors Team and the Molecular Engineering Team jointly received the award at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Science Conference held recently in Orlando, Fla.

The teams were honored for their work on a research project entitled “Real-Time Fluorogenic PCR Assays to Detect and Identify the Biological Threat Agents.” This project is advancing ECBC’s extensive work in sampling and detection technologies for biological agents.

“We are extremely proud of these teams and their work,” said Mr. Jim Zarzycki, Technical Director of ECBC. “The Army R&D Achievement Award is a great honor, and is well deserved.”

These gene probe-based assays were developed to detect the presence of multiple agent-specific marker genes. Since 1999, the Biosensors and the Molecular Engineering teams have transitioned a total of 25 different assays to the Department of Defense database for primers and probes for biodefense. They can be easily transitioned to any nucleic acid-based sensor for field operation.

ECBC’s scientists have developed many highly sensitive, specific, and real-time fluorogenic Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) assays for rapid detection and identification of biological threat agents. Their work has provided the U.S. Army with an important asset to be used to protect this nation against bioterrorism.

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ECBC is the Army's principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and services. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for national defense, civilian needs and industrial competitiveness, with a long and distinguished history of providing the Armed Forces with quality systems and outstanding customer service. ECBC is located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. For more information about the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, please visit our Web site at <http://edgewood.sbcom.army.mil> or call (410) 436-4347.